



ALEXANDER AKALOVSKY, interpreter for Vice President Nixon in Russia, with his wife, MARIA, and their children, IRENE, ELAINE and ALEXANDER JR.

The children already speak Russian.

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Alexander Akalovsky Found It Took Quick Elbow Jabs Just to Keep Near Vice President in Crowds

By Thomas W. Orenstein
A Washington Correspondent
of the Post-Dispatch

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14.

ALEXANDER AKALOVSKY, vice interpreter for Vice President Richard M. Nixon on his recent trip to the Soviet Union, needs all the rest he can get.

For with Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev scheduled to visit the United States next month and with President Eisenhowers' trip to the Soviet Union, a Russian-speaking interpreter is likely to be as popular and as necessary in the months ahead as a sing like at a sorority dance.

Akalovsky, who knows his way about in almost a dozen foreign languages, has not been given no official indication whether he will be assigned to the Eisenhower visit. But people have been telling me I'd better get that means anything," he said to this reporter in a gruff

Akalovsky, highly educated as he is, got a new kind of education when he served as interpreter for Nixon.

A tall, dark, courteous Russian, friendly but vigorous, pressed about the Vice President wherever he appeared. Akalovsky is a middle-aged, courteous sort, found himself in danger of being selected from his chief.

Quickly he learned the rough-and-ready, if undiplomatic, techniques of surviving in a mob. With a resourcefulness the State Department could be proud of, the interpreter found his way of pushing and shoving his way through eager spectators, of keeping his feet from being crushed by heavy Russian boots, of nimble, darting, enthusiastic bear hugs and of shouting when necessary. Above all, he learned the value of a sharp elbow job to the side of those who tried to get between him and Nixon.

"One time I had to use one's elbow, that's all there was to it," he remarked today with a faint air of surprise at himself.

Using one's elbow is now second nature for Akalovsky. A native of Yugoslavia but of Russian parentage, he gives the impression of a pleasant, easygoing but a bit of a worldly college professor. There is a slight European touch to his voice, reflecting the Savic language of his native land.

At 33 his hair is thinning slightly. Rather heavy-lensed glasses add to his scholarly appearance.

He is a tall, thin man, like many State Department employees, dresses well in the subdued, striped or traditional.

Seated in the comfortable living room of the apartment in Arlington, Va., across the broad Potomac from the Soviet embassy where he, his wife and their three young children live, Akalovsky recalled some of the more trying moments of his recent two-week tour of Russia and Poland.

There was the famous "kitchen debate" Nixon staged with Khrushchev at the American exhibit; they kept up a running exchange for 10 hours.

"Their conversation was extremely rapid," Akalovsky remarked. "Reporters who were trying to get into the discussion kept shouting for me to talk louder so they could hear what was being said."

"People were shouting from all sides. Why," he exclaimed in some amazement, "you should have seen my shoes. All scuffed up."

Khrushchev's fondness for idiomatic expressions and maxims didn't make things any easier.

CAM. At the same time Akalovsky was learning a new language, English.

In 1965 he graduated from

the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in

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